



St. Louis Audubon Society



Tale Feathers

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 1998

Meet Your Friends at Audubon's Holiday Open House

by Jim Holsen

Mark your calendar for Audubon's Holiday Open House from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday, December 6, at Washington University's Tyson Research Center. This year Audubon will again welcome in the holidays at a joint reception with members of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS).

Bring your binoculars and walk the roads and trails at Tyson on a brisk Sunday afternoon, on the lookout for deer and turkey or for winter birds. Or stay inside and enjoy the warmth of a fire and the company of friends.

Audubon and WGNSS will supply soft drinks and beer. Bring an hors d'oeuvre or snack to share with others.

To reach Tyson from the I-270/I-44 intersection south of Kirkwood, go west on I-44 to the Antire Road exit. Take the exit ramp and continue to the Tyson Gatehouse on the north side of the road. A gatekeeper will admit you. Travel on the Tyson roadway to the headquarters building, adjoining the garage and maintenance shed on the right side of the road.

Remember December 6! Come early and enjoy the afternoon. This is a great way to get in the spirit for the holiday season.

Jim Rathert to Speak at Joint Audubon/WGNSS General Membership Meeting in February

by Jim Holsen

Jim Rathert, widely known wildlife photographer for the *Missouri Conservationist*, the publication of the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss photography from a naturalist's point of view at the February joint meeting of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS).

The meeting will be held on Friday, February 12, 1999, at 8 pm in the large auditorium of the St. Louis County Library Headquarters building on Lindbergh Boulevard.

Every reader of the *Missouri Conservationist* is familiar with Jim's wonderful photographs. He has covered every aspect of Missouri's wildlife and scenic wonders—just look for his acknowl-

edgments in any issue of this popular publication.

The St. Louis County Library Headquarters building is on Lindbergh Boulevard, opposite Frontenac Plaza and just south of the intersection of Lindbergh Boulevard with Clayton Road. The large auditorium is on the north side of the building, so guests will find it convenient to park along the building's north side.

In recent years, our February meetings have been joint ones with WGNSS, in recognition of the common interests of many members of these 2 groups. Plan to join us for this outstanding program.

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A BIRDING FESTIVAL — Preparing for Spring

(Special Program provided by St. Louis Audubon Society)

Thursday, January 28, 1999

7 to 8:30 pm

Powder Valley Nature Center Auditorium (limit 200)



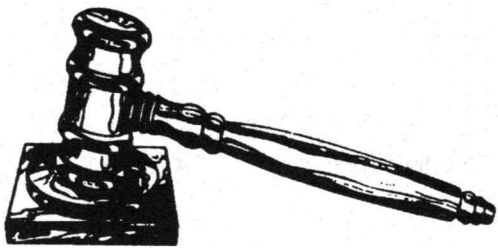
No Cost, But Reservations Are Required: Call 314/301-1500; reservations taken starting January 14

Ages: 10 and up

We are all looking forward to spring when the songbirds return and the flowers start to bloom. Birdwatching is one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in America today. Join us for this special program, which is the joint effort of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the Missouri Department of Conservation at Powder Valley.

Topics covered:

- How to start watching birds and improve existing birding skills—including finding birds, recognizing field marks, using field guides and binoculars effectively
- Where to go birding—best locations around St. Louis
- What birds to expect each season
- Many free handouts and answers to your questions



From Your President

Audubon's Behind-the-Scenes Day at the Zoo a Great Success

by Jim Holsen

With a Boa Constrictor wrapped around her waist, Audubon board member Sara Lenoe led an eager group of Audubon family members on a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Emerson Children's Zoo.

This general membership meeting on Sunday afternoon, November 1, was a repeat performance of a similar tour of the bird houses that Sara provided 2 years ago. We had a nice fall day, despite earlier threats of rain.

Ron Goellner, General Curator at the Zoo, began the meeting with slides and stories about reptile hunting and birding in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona. Then Sara took the group through the back rooms that house the birds and other animals that we see in the Children's Zoo. These animals are accustomed to being handled by people and were great for the children, who were allowed to touch and pet them.

Afterwards, the guests were free to wander through the Children's Zoo. Highlights were a Caracara, a Harris' Hawk, an Aardvark, the Koala Bears, and many more. We look forward to another behind-the-scenes treat with Sara Lenoe.

Boschert Fund Earmarked for Education—Boschert Memorial Scholarship

by Arthur Montgomery

Earlier this year, the estate of Dorothy Boschert donated approximately \$50,000 to the St. Louis Audubon Society.

The St. Louis Audubon board debated at great length as for what purpose the monies should be used. We agreed that our focus as an organization should be on educating the public on the areas of wildlife and wildlife conservation.

National Audubon provides several excellent learning opportunities in the form of summer camps. These camps are geared toward the study of specific ecosystems such as oceanic, high plains, or marsh land.

Our goal for this money is to offer scholarships to teachers so they can attend these summer camps. They may then bring back the knowledge and enthusiasm of nature and conservation and pass these qualities along to their students.

The fund should generate approximately \$2,600 per year. We are very excited and pleased that we are able to utilize this generous gift for such a worthy cause.

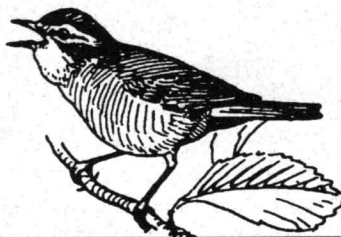
If you or anyone you know has an interest in a tax-deductible gift, bequest, or charitable giving, please call Arthur Montgomery at 252-9955.

Tracy Memorial Plans Continue

by Mary Lou Miller

Ed Ortleb and I are continuing with plans to establish a memorial at the St. Louis Zoo in honor of Robert J. Tracy, Jr., whose family chose St. Louis Audubon for memorial contributions on the death of Mr. Tracy in August 1996. A total of \$2,000 was received—an amount that was matched by the St. Louis Audubon board.

In a joint effort with Zoo personnel, our goal is to erect a memorial sign in the Zoo's Bird Garden, which will help people become more aware of international migratory birds.



Get to Know . . . Vicki Flier

(This is the twenty-sixth in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

Earth Day 1970 was the point at which I became interested in the planet Earth and in protecting the environment. My educational path did not follow this interest as I studied business in college, and after I graduated, a number of personal issues came to the forefront (marriage, work, child). As my time has freed up, my ability to contribute time to environmental issues has increased.

Currently, I serve as a field science volunteer teacher at Tyson Research Center, and I am also a volunteer at The Nature Conservancy. I serve on the board of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and was recently elected a board member of St. Louis Audubon. While my background is not in the environmental sciences, I try to make a difference by "doing."

Birding is a special interest of mine, and I joined Audubon after I had called the office number and spoken with Mary Lou Miller about a White-winged Crossbill I had seen at my feeder. Later when my husband and I were in Florida, we went to Audubon's Corkscrew Nature Preserve and saw our first (and only) Painted Bunting. We were introduced to Bill and Emily Brandhorst on another birding trip, where we all saw the Resplendent Quetzal in Costa Rica.

Other interests of mine include art, quilt making, travel, and cooking. My husband and I are also interested in motor sports, and I am an 11-time Sports Car Club of America Solo II National Champion.

Update on Audubon's Bird Seed Sale

by Sue Smith

The annual Audubon bird seed sale pickup was held on October 24 at the Green Center in University City. The \$350 profit from the sale will be used for educational programs.

Thanks to the following members for making the sale possible:

Lynne Breakstone	Dianne Johnson	Dale Ponce	Tim Smith
Stacie Smith	Sue Smith	John Solodar	

We also thank Linda Kraft, manager of the Green Center, for her cooperation in working out the logistics for delivery, day of sale, and late pick-ups.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. For confirmation & more information, call trip leaders Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Horseshoe Lake — *Saturday, December 5*, at 9 am. Site is typically good for viewing waterfowl, gulls, sparrow species, & wintering raptors. Take I-55/70 east of St. Louis to north on Hwy 111. Go through park entrance to HQ building. See related birding article on page 5.

Riverlands — *Saturday, January 16, 1999*, at 9 am. Highlights should include Bald Eagles, waterfowl, gulls, & possibly Short-eared Owls. In St. Charles County near Alton, IL. Take Hwy 367 north of I-270, across Missouri River to right on last road before Mississippi River. Go east from gas station; turn right on first road to Teal Pond parking lot. See related birding article on page 5.

Horseshoe Lake — *Saturday, February 20, 1999*, at 9 am. Take I-55/70 east of St. Louis to north on Hwy 111. Go through park entrance to HQ building.

Christmas Bird Counts

Plan to participate in one of the annual Christmas Bird Counts. This volunteer effort provides some of the best information available on the status of bird species—are their populations increasing or declining? It is best to call in advance so that areas can be preassigned on a logical basis, but participants in the Busch and Pere Marquette counts are welcome to show up on the morning of the count. There is a standard National Audubon participation fee of \$5 per person to help cover printing and distribution of the results.

Pere Marquette Count — *Saturday, December 19*. Some areas will be preassigned. Others meet at Pere Marquette Lodge at 7:30 am. For info. & registration, call Irene Mondhink at 618/885-5233 or Helen Wuestenfeld at 618/498-5335. \$5 fee.

Orchard Farm Count — *Saturday, January 2, 1999*, in central St. Charles County. To register, call Randy Korotev at H# 993-0055 or W# 935-5637. Leave message if no answer. Randy expects to be out of town during much of the holiday season, so call before December 19, if possible. \$5 fee.

Busch Wildlife Conservation Area Count — *Sunday, January 3, 1999*, in western St. Charles County. Meet in parking lot at headquarters area before 8 am. Be prepared for weather & bring lunch. To register, call Tom Parmeter at H# 921-6017. \$5 fee.

Audubon-Related Activities

Holiday Open House with WGNSS — *Sunday, December 6*, from 1 to 4 pm. Held at Tyson Research Center. For more info., call Vicki Flier at H# 968-9166 or Jim Holsen at H# 822-0410. See related article on page 1.

A Birding Festival: Preparing for Spring — *Thursday, January 28, 1999*, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Special program provided by St. Louis Audubon & held at Powder Valley Nature Center. Reservations required & taken starting January 14. See related article on page 1.

Joint Membership Meeting with WGNSS — *Friday, February 12, 1999*, at 8 pm. Jim Rathert, *Missouri Conservationist* photographer, will discuss photography from a naturalist's point of view. Held at St. Louis County Library Headquarters building. See related article on page 1.

Special Events

Sustainable Forestry in the Ozarks: Results of 45 Years of Experience & Research — *Wednesday, January 13, 1999*, from 7:30 to 9 pm. Part of 1998-99 Science Seminar Series cosponsored by St. Louis Zoo & Academy of Science of St. Louis. Held in the Living World—free parking in North Lot, on

north side of Zoo. No charge—adults, teachers, secondary students, & public invited. For more info., call 768-5466 or 533-8083.

Masters of the Sky — *First Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, January 16-17, 1999*, at Clarksville; *Second Weekend: February 6-7, 1999*, at Alton. Program highlighting American Bald Eagle sponsored by Corps of Engineers. For more info., call Riverlands office & ask for Julie Ziino or Brian Markert, 899-2600.

Eagle Days at Clarksville — *Saturday & Sunday, January 30-31, 1999*. Sponsored by Missouri Conservation Department. For more info., call Patti Redel at Powder Valley, 301-1500, ext. 2234.

Enjoyable Fall Picnic

by Tom Day

A cool, blustery gray morning brightened just in time for St. Louis Audubon's annual fall picnic on October 18. The recently remodeled Freund Center at the Shaw Arboretum was a perfect place to spend a fall afternoon.

Some members enjoyed exploring this beautiful area of the Arboretum on their own to experience the wonderful solitude of nature while others took time to meet new people and renew old acquaintances.

While Smokin' Mary Dueren (also Audubon's secretary) was grilling a mountain of hamburgers and hot dogs for our enjoyment, Paul Bauer (international birder *extraordinaire*) led a large group on a bird walk. As always, Paul provided expert instruction and encouragement to our more inexperienced birders. When we returned (just in time to miss out on most of the work), we enjoyed a potluck feast that for me was highlighted by some German potato salad and some "killer" chocolate chip cookies.

In order to lighten our load for the ride back into town, Dr. James Trager, Arboretum naturalist, led us on a nature walk at dusk to the wetlands area and told us of plans to expand the site's educational programs. Once again, our timing was perfect because when we returned to the Freund Center, the clean-up was just about finished.

Our thanks go to Mary, Paul, James, and the many others who helped set up for dinner and clean up afterwards. And thanks to everyone for bringing such wonderful food.

The Conservation Corner

Missouri Audubon Council Represented on Governor's Chip Mill Committee

by Jim Holsen

As noted in the June 1998 newsletter, the Missouri Audubon Council gave the regulation of chip mills the most important place on its agenda when it met last January to prioritize the legislative issues facing the Missouri General Assembly.

Chip mills, with a voracious appetite for timber, threaten to fragment Missouri's forests through clear cutting and other bad management practices and to destroy the biological diversity that characterizes the Ozarks. This is a natural issue for Audubon, with its emphasis on birds, other wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Some progress can be reported since the June newsletter.

On September 18 Governor Carnahan signed an Executive Order creating an advisory committee on chip mills. The committee, chaired jointly by the Departments of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resources (DNR), will report back to the Governor no later than December 1, 1999.

The 14 appointees to the advisory committee include David Bedan, a member of the Columbia, MO, Audubon Society and its representative on the Missouri Audubon Council (MAC). David is Web master for MAC and maintains a Web page on chip mills, which can be accessed through the MAC Web page at www.audubon.org/chapter/mo/mo. David, who is retired from DNR, has a bachelor's degree in biology and a doctoral degree from Notre Dame. In his press release, Governor Carnahan refers to David's membership in MAC, a recognition of Audubon's interest in this issue.

Other committee members include Steve Mahfood, Director of DNR, and Marvin Brown, State Forester with MDC. Wayne Goode, State Senator from Normandy, and Deirdre Hirner, Executive Director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, are among the other appointees. Also included are other state legislators, representatives of the Missouri Forest Products Association, landowners, timber producers, a representative from the Farm Bureau, and heads of the Departments of Economic Development and Agriculture.

It is estimated that the committee is equally divided between proponents of chip mills as an economic asset and those who oppose chip mills for their adverse environmental effects.

In the lobbying that has occurred this spring and summer, DNR has been the advocate of stricter control over chip mill operations and for a moratorium on further permits during the period of study by the advisory committee. MDC, on the other hand, has often seemed to favor chip mills and clear cutting, supporting the Missouri Farm Products Association.

Chip mills pander to greed. Good forest management practices pay off over the long term. But studies show that land ownership in Missouri averages 7 years, too short for the long-term methods to pay off. Some landowners are tempted to take the profits promised by clear cutting—a return to the “cut-out-and-get-out” policy prevalent 100 years ago. They take the profits and leave the environmental problems to others. This is the concern facing the Governor's advisory committee.



Doe Run Withdraws Application for Exploratory Drilling in the Ozarks

by Jim Holsen

On October 27 the Department of the Interior released a press statement announcing that the Doe Run Company had withdrawn its application for exploratory drilling for lead in the Mark Twain Forest on the watersheds of the Eleven Point, Current, and Jack's Fork Rivers. The statement read, “Mining is a valuable industry, and mining jobs are good jobs, but mining should not be allowed to threaten very special places Yellowstone and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.”

It was feared that the karst topography, typical of the area, would allow mining wastes to penetrate the underlying porous geologic structure.

A factor in Doe Run's decision to withdraw its application was the Interior Department's demand that Doe Run agree that successful exploratory drilling did not entitle it to a commercial mining permit. Many legal experts feared that if the exploratory drilling were successful, Doe Run could sue the government for loss of revenues if it were not granted a license for full-scale production.

This is a victory for the many persons who wrote to Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, asking him to reconsider his apparent earlier intention to grant the exploratory permit. A year ago, in response to a similar campaign by many environmentalists, the Missouri Conservation Commission reversed its earlier decision to permit drilling on Department lands.

Stay Up-to-Date on National Conservation Issues!

Mary Lou Miller is continuing to provide a summary of national conservation issues in the news for each month to all the St. Louis Audubon board members.

If you would also like this summary each month, please call Mary Lou (**H# 389-3969**) with your name, address, and phone number. If you leave a message on her answering machine, please spell out your name and address clearly. You may also write to her at:

**3927 Lucas & Hunt Road
St. Louis, MO 63121**

Here's a chance to get information on all kinds of environmental issues from a variety of sources!

A Spirit of Freedom in the Country

by Jim Holsen

When the Swedish Royal Academy was looking for a botanist to identify American plants that might be useful in Sweden, Carl Linnaeus recommended the Swedish naturalist Peter Kalm. When Kalm arrived in America in the mid-1700's, he was impressed with the abundance of plants and wildlife, writing home that "thousands of frogs croaked all night long in the marshes and brooks" and the "tree frogs are very clamorous in the evening and drown the singing of the birds."

But even then, Americans were concerned with man's effects on the environment. Joseph Kastner in his book *A Species of Eternity* recounts that a 90-year-old man had told Kalm that when he was young, a hunter could "shoot eighty ducks in a morning but at present you frequently wait in vain for a single one. In spring the people steal eggs, mothers, and young indifferently because no regulations are made to the contrary." Then Kalm added that if any rules had been made, "the spirit of freedom which prevails in the country would not suffer them to be obeyed."

This story reminds us of the "takings" activists in the Missouri Ozarks—those people who believe that any attempt to regulate wildlife is a federal plot against landowners, a "taking" of their property. Every now and then we hear stories of black helicopters from the United Nations, plotting to take over the Ozark biosphere.

The takings issues were brought closer to home this summer as St. Louis Audubon sought to have additional money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) set aside for the purchase of wetlands to augment the 16,000 acres which now comprise the relatively new Big Muddy Fish and Wildlife Refuge, with scattered tracts on the Missouri River between St. Louis and Kansas City. The National Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to enlarge the refuge to 60,000 acres, purchasing wetlands along the Missouri from willing sellers.

The LWCF, derived from royalties paid by oil companies for off-shore production, is intended for the purchase of lands for refuges and national parks. Usually, however, Congress appropriates only a small fraction of the \$900 million received annually in royalties, using the remainder to reduce the national debt. Nevertheless, this is an important source of funding for refuges, which are sadly in lack of funds for day-to-day operation, much less the purchase of new acreage.

National Audubon plays an important role in

allocating money from the LWCF to deserving refuges. Every year National Audubon requests that Audubon chapters nominate those refuges they think are most in need of funding. National Audubon, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, reviews the nominations and forwards its recommendations to Congress, which usually acts on Audubon's suggestions.

This year St. Louis Audubon nominated the Big Muddy, and the nomination was accepted and included in the briefing book prepared for Congress. Unfortunately, this summer when the Interior Appropriations bill was before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Kit Bond, a member of the committee, refused to support the appropriation for the Big Muddy. St. Louis Audubon received a call from one of Bond's aides, his wetlands specialist, warning us "not to expect too much." It became apparent that Senator Bond was not willing to antagonize those "takings" activists who earlier had loudly protested that the federal government was intent on seizing private land for the refuge.

Fall Birding Trips Generate Welcome Surprises

By Jim Malone

This November we had two great birding trips at the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area. Each trip was well attended by birders and birds.

The November 7 trip emphasized sparrow identification. We started by searching the tall weeds near the Weiss Road marsh and the area near the site office for wintering sparrow species. Although the bird numbers were impressive, the number of species was limited to Savannah, Song, Swamp, and White-crowned Sparrows. Further investigation at the Heron Pond, Ellis Bay, and under the Clark Bridge rewarded us with 12 different species of waterfowl. But the overwhelming bird of the day was an immature Northern Goshawk spotted by one of the participants near the Melvin Price Dam. This unusual hawk was a life bird for most of the participants, and we all got to look at it through spotting scopes before it took off and circled slowly above us.

On November 15, we re-visited Riverlands and found that a week made a significant difference in the numbers of duck and gull species present. This time, there were 17 species of ducks and

geese and 7 sparrow species. Although we didn't find another Goshawk, we were able to identify a second-year Laughing Gull, and those of us who went on to Horseshoe Lake after Riverlands got wonderful views of a Western Grebe at the end of Layton Road. After the last bird was identified, 57 species were counted.

On Saturday, December 5, St. Louis Audubon is planning a birding trip to Horseshoe Lake in southern Illinois. Horseshoe Lake is often as good as Riverlands this time of year, providing a variety of waterfowl, gulls, sparrow species, and wintering raptors. We will be investigating the Horseshoe Lake State Park on route 111 just north of interstate 70 and then moving to the other side of the lake to look for gulls in the landfill borrow pit off route 203. Past trips to this location have yielded uncommon gulls like Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, Thayer's, and Iceland Gulls. Horseshoe Lake is traditionally a good place to find migrating grebes (like the Western Grebe seen there on November 15) and a wide variety of waterfowl.

On January 16, we will be visiting Riverlands again for our first field trip of 1999. This is the time of year that Bald Eagles are usually abundant at Riverlands and the waterfowl numbers are up to their winter levels. If much of the river is frozen in this area or upstream, large numbers and varieties of gulls may appear at the Melvin Price Dam since the locks remain ice free throughout the winter. In past years we have seen Glaucous, Glaucous-winged, Iceland, Thayer's, Bonaparte's Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes in addition to the regular Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Another winter treat at Riverlands is the presence of Short-eared Owls in the tall grassy areas near Teal Pond. Watch for these birds near dusk each winter's day. Often



the owls will perch on signs at the side of the road, giving us wonderful close-up views. At this time, we may also opt to drive a ways up the Mississippi to Elsah to visit feeders there. This is always a good location for wintering finches,

possible Crossbills, and Pine Siskins.

As you can see, we are getting out each month to some of the best birding locations in the St. Louis area and seeing wonderful birds there. Why not come out and join us? It's easy and fun! Just check the **Upcoming Events calendar** in this newsletter for times and locations—and then join us!

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



The Education Corner

Resource Center Network

by Sue Smith

St. Louis Audubon was represented at the Resource Center Network workshop for teachers, scout leaders, and home schoolers held at Powder Valley Nature Center on October 16 from 3 to 5 pm.

We thank **Vicki Flier**, **Sue Smith**, and **Karen Turner**, who assisted with Audubon's booth. Fourteen *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits were distributed to area educators.

Education Committee Meets

by Sue Smith

St. Louis Audubon's education committee met on Wednesday, October 14, at the Kirkwood office. Christy Beckmann, Mary Dueren, Ed Ortleb, and Sue Smith discussed present and future educational goals for the chapter.

Any area teacher interested in applying for an Audubon camp scholarship should contact Julie Leemann (H# 962-2093) for an application. Scholarship winners will be announced in March.

Café Audubon and mini-bird feeders will be added to the items sold at Audubon's informational booths.

The next education committee meeting is scheduled for December 1, 7 pm, at Powder Valley Nature Center.

Audubon Camp Scholarships Available

by Julie Leemann

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer 3 scholarships to the Audubon ecology camps run by the National Audubon Society. The camps are located in Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, and Wyoming. Attendance at an Audubon camp can enrich your life.

The scholarships cover the cost of the 6- or 7-day camp session fee and include \$100 toward

the cost of transportation.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information is typically sent to the science coordinators of the St. Louis area school districts in late January. Interested applicants unable to obtain this information from their science coordinators should contact:

Julie Leemann
1004 Sanders Dr.
Crestwood, MO 63126
H# 962-2093 (evenings)

Persons interested in attending camps on their own or obtaining information on other U.S. and international Audubon ecology workshops should contact:

National Audubon Society
Camps and Ecology Workshops
613 Riversville Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831
Ph. 203/869-2017
email: aew@audubon.org

Award Nominations Requested

by Julie Leemann

Nominations are now being accepted for the St. Louis Audubon Society **Conservationist of the Year** and the **Robert J. Terry Award**.

The St. Louis Audubon Society is also offering new awards this year. The **Legislator of the Year Award** will be given to a local elected official who best supports the mission of the Audubon Society. **High School Student Awards** will be given to exemplary high school seniors who plan further study in ecology, biology, or related fields. Student applications must include a faculty recommendation.

All nominations should be sent by February 15, 1999, to:

Julie Leemann
1004 Sanders Dr.
Crestwood, MO 63126

These awards will be presented at the Audubon annual dinner on April 22, 1999.

Bird Enthusiasts Needed Across America for 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Bird enthusiasts all over North America are being asked to join the 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 19-22, 1999, the first Internet-based bird census. Cosponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, supported by Wild Birds Unlimited and sponsored locally by the St. Louis Audubon, the Great Backyard Bird Count asks birdwatchers everywhere, both old-timers and first-timers, to count the birds they see at their feeders, local parks, or other areas.

Birders' reports are made online, through BirdSource: <http://birdsource.cornell.edu>, a state-of-the-art Web site which is a joint project of Cornell and Audubon. Birders here in St. Louis can chart local results and compare them with the findings of counters across North America.

"We need the help of people everywhere—children, parents, and grandparents—who enjoy birdwatching," says Audubon Senior Vice President of Science Frank Gill. "Bird watching is the fastest-growing pastime in the country, enjoyed by over 54 million people every year. Combined with the cutting-edge Internet technology of BirdSource, this observing power will allow us to immediately begin assessing the status of North American wintering birds."

Last year's first-ever Great '98 Backyard Bird Count attracted 14,000 participants who reported more than half a million birds—and some important El Nino-related finds. Species like the American Robin, which typically winters in southerly regions, were reported in high numbers across New England and the Canadian provinces. "This year's post-El Nino reports will be essential for comparisons," continued Gill.

Like last year, participants will be able to quickly see for themselves how their reports fit into the continent-wide perspective, as animated maps illustrate which birds are reported where in real-time. This year, however, participants will be able to ask the database their own questions, such as which species were reported in a particular zip code or how many of a certain species were seen. In addition, BirdSource will supply novices with help in identifying birds by sight and by their distinctive calls.

"Our most important goal right now is to get as many people as possible to participate," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We're in the process of creating a vast database that will allow us to look at long-

term population trends of North American birds. The more information we have, the better we'll be able to help ensure our common birds will remain common and take measures to protect species already in decline. This is why it's so important to get as many people as possible to tell us what they're seeing."

To participate, simply go to the BirdSource Web site at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu>, click on the 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count button, and fill in the easy-to-use form. In addition to animated maps, visitors to the site can view colorful bird images, hear examples of songs and calls, read about the conservation status of key species, compare maps with other BirdSource projects, and more.



Christmas Presents for the Birds

Wild Bird Rehabilitation at 10040 Big Bend Road in St. Louis has been taking of injured birds for the past 5 years. Mainly from May through August, the staff cares for hundreds of injured, sick, and orphaned birds. The multiple species range from robins to rails, flickers to finches, and wrens to warblers (predominantly songbirds and other small birds).

The facility is always in need of various donations to continue its work—why not target part of your Christmas shopping towards our bird friends? Look over the lists below and see what you might want to donate. Wild Bird Rehabilitation is open 7 days a week from 9 am to 1 pm; a box is available outside the building to place your donations. If you have any questions, please call Carol Kershner, president, at 984-9116. The birds say thanks!

Keeping Birds Fed:

baby food (chicken, beef, applesauce, apricots, bananas, beets, corn, garden vegetables, prunes, sweet potatoes)
berries (canned, frozen, fresh)
canned vegetables (beets, beans—pinto, kidney, northern, etc.—black-eyed peas, carrots, corn)
low or no salt
fresh fruits & vegetables (apples, bananas, grapes, greens, melons, sweet potatoes)
frozen fruits
raisins
bird seed
chick starter
dog chow

Exact hand rearing formula, pellets
monkey biscuits
tropic bits

Keeping Birds & Cages Clean:

brooms & dust pans
chlorine bleach
Dawn dish detergent
diapers—non-elastic legs (adults &/or children)
newspaper (without slick inserts)
paper towels
Roccal disinfectant
Simple Green
toilet paper (unscented)
trash can liners/trash bags
sponges & scrub pads

Keeping Birds Healthy:

cotton balls & gauze pads
lactated ringers
Pedialyte
needles (22 gauge & smaller)
syringes
Prime bird vitamins
light reflectors
red light bulbs—40 watt or less

Supporting Birds' Temporary Home:

color printer
intensive care incubator
postage stamps
printing paper
printing service (or help with cost)

handy people for upkeep of building & caging (carpenters, plumbers, etc.)

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Introductory/\$20 ☐ Individual/\$35 ☐ Family/\$40
☐ Sustaining/\$50 ☐ Supporting/\$100 ☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21
☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Send application to:
Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairperson
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:
National Audubon Society
If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Officers 1998-99

Jim Holsen	President	822-0410
Sue Smith	VP-Education	256-7986
Bill Groth, Jr.	VP-Conservation	843-7440
Arthur Montgomery	VP-Finance	822-1215
Mary Lou Miller	Treasurer	389-3969
Mary Dueren	Secretary	576-1473

Board of Directors

Mike Arduser		968-8479
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	822-2428
Lynne Breakstone		726-4772
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	391-7586
Dallas Cox		878-1080
Tom Day	Annual Dinner/Meeting	962-4064
Vicki Flier		968-9166
Michael Grant		519-0208
Susanne Greenlee	Butterfly Count Coordinator	727-6044
Dianne Johnson		458-4369
Sara Lenoe		351-4565
Jim Malone	Birding	536-1119
Edward Ortleb		351-0966
Dale Ponce		394-6011
John Solodar		862-5294
Missy Stern		862-0925
Anna Stevens		239-4486
Vicky Walker		618/236-2473

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Paul Bauer	Birding	921-3972
Bill Brandhorst	Wildlife Mountings	965-7269
Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
	Newsletter Mailing	
Sue Jones	Bird Seed Sale Committee	721-0819
LaVerne Koyne	Message Center Phone Line	878-9125
Julie Leemann	Awards & Scholarships	962-2093
Dorothy Mill	Community Club Awards	966-6163
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	389-3969
Janice Patton	Print Library	921-4875
Karen Turner	Resource Center Network Rep.	771-6814
	SLEEN Representative	
Dave Tylka	Strategic Planning Committee	984-7712

Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call 314/822-6595.

THANK YOU

For Donations to the St. Louis Audubon Society:

JIM & PAT CLARK,
in memory of Jack Van Benthuysen

MRS. MYRON GLASSBERG

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM PAUL WISCHMEYER

MAC Elects New Officers

The Missouri Audubon Council elected its new officers at the September 27 meeting held at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. New officers are:

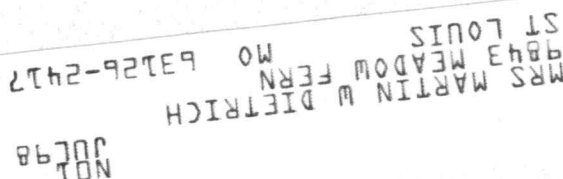
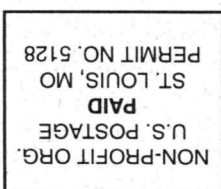
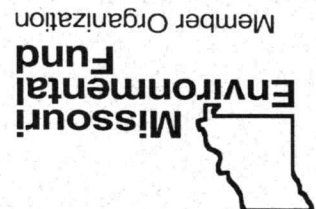
Mike Doyen, Chairperson
Jean Blackwood, Vice-Chairperson
Linda Landon, Treasurer
Susan Dornfeld & Jeanne Barr, Secretaries



Newsletter Information

The St. Louis Audubon Society's **Tale Feathers** is printed bimonthly on recycled paper with soy ink and produced by Dolde Printing Co., 1350 Lonedell Road, Arnold, MO 63010.

Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **January 15, 1999** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Road, Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).



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 St. Louis, Missouri 63121